

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

1-10. (canceled)

11. (currently amended) A hose system for a vacuum appliance having a hose receptacle, the hose system comprising:

a hose having a connection end **attached to a hose connector**;

a first locking element connected to ~~the connection end of~~ the hose **connector**;

the first locking element including a generally U-shaped casing and a post traversing the U-shaped casing; and

an adapter having first and second ends, the first end adapted to be fixedly attached to the hose receptacle, the second end having a second locking element including a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post to selectively engage the first locking element.

12. (original) A hose system as defined in claim 11, wherein the first end of the adapter includes a plurality of flaps extending outwardly therefrom, the flaps adapted to engage the hose receptacle to fixedly attach the first end to the receptacle.

13-31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) A hose system for a vacuum appliance comprising a friction-based hose receptacle, the hose system comprising:

an adapter comprising first and second ends, the first end comprising a connector for permanently attaching the adapter to the friction-based hose receptacle such that when so attached the friction-based hose receptacle is converted to a locking hose receptacle, and the second end comprising a first locking element adapted to selectively engage a second locking element to establish a locking relationship; and

a hose comprising a connection end attached to a hose connector, the ~~connection-end~~ hose connector comprising the second locking element wherein the first locking element comprises a post for interlocking with the second locking element.

33. (previously presented) An adapter as defined in claim 32, wherein the connector comprises a plurality of flaps extending outwardly from the first end.

34 (canceled)

35. (currently amended) An adapter as defined in ~~claim 34~~ claim 32, wherein the second locking element comprises a locking handle having a tooth for engaging the post.